

February 20, 1986

CONTENTSPAGE

● P.B. Fund Issues Haiti Emergency Grant (86027)	1
● Browning Joins Call to End South Africa Loans (86028)	3
● Bishop Eames Elected Primate of Ireland (86029)	5
● Initial Pre-Lambeth Meeting Held in Lima (86030)	7
● Episcopal Advocacy Training to Precede Impact Briefing (86031)	8
● Crean Named to P.B. Fund Post (86032)	10
● "Witness" is This Year's Good Friday Offering Theme (86033)	12
● Trinity Wall Street Votes to Divest (86034)	13

P. B. FUND ISSUESHAITI EMERGENCY GRANT

DPS 86027

NEW YORK (DPS, Feb. 20) -- Saying, "We do hope that this grant will be of significant help in relieving the needs of the victims of this most recent unrest in Haiti," the Rev. Canon Samir J. Habiby, executive director of the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, announced that the Fund has issued a \$10,000 emergency grant to the Episcopal Church in Haiti.

Episcopal Church officials in Haiti report that the atmosphere is hopeful there, as the new government organizes itself following the departure of President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier.

During the time of change, the work of the Church continues in its schools, hospitals and other institutions, as well as in the pastoral care it provides. A letter from Haiti received at the Episcopal Church Center, here, said, "The power of the spirit has been very strong within the Episcopal Church of Haiti...and...the spirit keeps moving us."

-more-

DPS 86027/2

Travel to the area outside the capital, Port-au-Prince, is still difficult, as is communication, and therefore needs are still being evaluated, but there has been damage, both material and human, which the Fund's grant will help to address.

The change of government in Haiti occurred following months of civil unrest. During that time, the Episcopal Church in Haiti worked, as much as was within its power, to avoid bloodshed. A statement issued at the time of its diocesan convention in late January said, "The Episcopal Church in Haiti reaffirms, as it has in the past, its conviction, its faith and its commitment to spreading the Gospel, to pursuing the task of reconciliation between man and God and between man and his fellowmen. The Church lifts its voice against all types of violence, oppression and injustice, no matter what the source or form."

The people of the Church in Haiti continue to request the prayers of their brothers and sisters in the wider Church. Those wishing also to contribute to the relief work in Haiti may send their donations, so marked, to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

###

BROWNING JOINS CALL TO
END SOUTH AFRICA LOANS

DPS 86028

NEW YORK (DPS, Feb. 20) -- Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning was among the signatories of a telegram sent by the Churches' Emergency Committee on Southern Africa calling on U.S. banks with loans to South Africa not to renew the loans or approve any new ones "until apartheid is dismantled."

Citing reports of proposals for renegotiation, the telegram said, "The Churches' Emergency Committee on Southern Africa is convinced that the evil system of apartheid must end and believes that these negotiations provide a unique opportunity for U.S. bank representatives to present the strongest possible opposition to apartheid."

"In response to the urgent pleas from our brothers and sisters in South Africa and after prayerful consideration," the telegram continued, "we have concluded that economic pressure on South Africa is the most important non-violent method for bringing an end to the apartheid system. We agree with church leaders in South Africa that the rescheduling of South Africa's debt should be made contingent upon the resignation of the present regime and its replacement by a government which represents all of South Africa's people."

Members of the Emergency Committee also made plans to send delegations for talks with the chairman of each of the banks involved: Citicorp, Chase Manhattan, Irving, Republic, Bankers Trust, Manufacturers Hanover, J.P. Morgan, Bank America, North Carolina and Chemical.

A memorandum distributed at the Emergency Committee meeting explained that the \$13.6 billion had been lent to private South African banks, but that they in turn had made the money available to the South African government. The loans provide the capital for this economically beleaguered government to oppress its population, the memorandum said. "American banks are aware of this fact....However, the current crisis in the South African economy has resulted in a moratorium on the repayment of loans by the South African banking community and a request that those loans be rescheduled or 'rolled over.'"

-more-

DPS 86028/2

In other actions, the Churches' Emergency Committee voted to hold a Public Policy Briefing and Advocacy Day in Washington at a date to be determined later, but probably in the spring. It would be coordinated with the expected introduction of legislation in Congress relating to U.S. involvement in South Africa.

The Committee also voted to promote national observance of the 10th anniversary of the Soweto, South Africa, uprising on June 16. Efforts will be made to hold a large ecumenical worship service in Washington.

Committee endorsement was given to two projects of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility: an effort to get church members to send one million post cards protesting the involvement of three U.S. computer firms in South Africa and a consultation scheduled for May to deal with the issues of South African divestment and disinvestment.

The Feb. 10 meeting, held at the Interchurch Center, was the first for the Churches' Emergency Committee. A decision to organize the group was made Jan. 13 at an ecumenical gathering of 150 church leaders in Washington. That gathering was held to follow up on an international meeting Dec. 4-6, 1985 in Harare, Zimbabwe, that the World Council of Churches and its Programme to Combat Racism sponsored at the request of member churches in South Africa.

Participants in the World Council of Churches meeting adopted a Harare Declaration asking churches throughout the world to observe the June 16 anniversary, oppose the bank loans "rollover," support South African movements working for liberation and take other actions in opposition to apartheid. Church leaders from the United States at Harare pledged that they would renew their efforts against apartheid when they returned home, and the Jan. 13 meeting was part of their attempt to keep that commitment. The Episcopal Church has participated in these meetings and, at its recent Executive Council meeting, affirmed the Harare Declaration.

The Rev. Avery Post, president of the United Church of Christ, and the Rev. M. Lorenzo Shepard, president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., serve as co-conveners of the Churches' Emergency Committee on Southern Africa.

###

BISHOP EAMES ELECTED

PRIMATE OF IRELAND

DPS 86029

ARMAGH, Northern Ireland (DPS, Feb. 20) — The Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert H. A. Eames was elected to succeed the Most Rev. John Ward Armstrong as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland by the House of Bishops of the Church of Ireland on Feb. 7.

Consecrated in June 1975 for the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, which straddles the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, Eames, then 38 years of age, was the youngest bishop to be consecrated in the Church of Ireland since its was dis-established in 1870. At his consecration, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, Dr. Edward Daly, was present.

Living in Londonerry and travelling through the diocese, which covered County Londonderry in Northern Ireland and County Donegal in the Republic, he saw first-hand how the Church responded to the challenge of witnessing in different political jurisdictions, and he saw the ongoing effects of violence and its challenge to the Churches.

In 1980, Eames was translated to the Diocese of Down and Dromore, and he returned to Belfast, where he had served as a rector for nine years in two parishes. The following year, he headed a Church of Ireland delegation which visited the United States at the invitation of then-Presidenting Bishop John M. Allin. During a week marked by prayers for reconciliation, the group spoke with Church leaders, politicians and journalists and, while members emphasized the Christian and ecumenical nature of the trip, they also stated a wish to "stand with" Irish-American leaders who denounce violence and work for a peaceful settlement of the situation in Northern Ireland.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference following his election as primate, Eames stressed that his role is as a spiritual leader and not that of a leader of a political party. He said that his first priority will be to get to know the people of Armagh and to bring pastoral care to those in trouble or need. He added that he saw the major challenge facing the Church of Ireland as the growing materialism which, although not completely secular, was rapidly moving in that direction.

DPS 86029/2

One of Eames' first official duties will be to lead a Church of Ireland delegation to meet with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London in mid-February. He will also be present at the Anglican Primates' meeting in Toronto and the Anglican Consultative Council standing committee meeting in early March.

Eames' academic background is that of legal studies. An honors graduate of The Queen's University in Belfast, he spent three years as a tutor and research scholar on the faculty and was awarded his doctorate in ecclesiastical law in 1963. His theological studies were undertaken and completed at Trinity College, University of Dublin.

He is the author of four books and has written for several legal and theological journals, and he has chaired a work-party which conducted hearings and then reported on what priorities the Church of Ireland should be tackling in its work and witness.

His wife, Christine, is also a law graduate, and they have two teenaged sons, Niall, a medical student at Queen's University in Belfast, and Michael, who attends grammar school at Campbell College.

Although a part of the wider Anglican Communion, the Church of Ireland is an independent entity, with its headquarters in Dublin, in the Republic of Ireland, but the majority of its members living in Northern Ireland. It has two archbishops and eleven bishops.

###

INITIAL PRE-LAMBETH

MEETING HELD IN LIMA

DPS 86030

LIMA, Peru (DPS, Feb. 20) -- A closer relationship between Anglican bishops in the Western Hemisphere has developed as the result of a nine-day residential meeting held here Jan. 21-29.

About 40 bishops from Canada, the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, South America and the United States gathered to identify issues and common concerns which they would like discussed at the world-wide Lambeth Conference for bishops to be held in Canterbury, England, in 1988.


It was the first-ever meeting for the bishops of the Western Hemisphere and the first of a number of proposed pre-Lambeth consultations in other parts of the world. Simultaneous translation facilities aided the deliberations of the English, Portuguese and Spanish-speaking bishops.

Concerns which the bishops expressed a desire to have on the Lambeth agenda were grouped under five main topics: peace and justice, the shape of Anglican ministry, relations with other denominations and other faiths, renewal and evangelization and family life. These will be forwarded to the Archbishop of Canterbury who convenes the Lambeth conference.

The bishops reiterated their total opposition to the apartheid system and voiced their support for the Commonwealth group which is seeking a dialogue with South African government and black leaders in an effort to dismantle apartheid. (Eds.: see DPS 85218)

They also drew attention to the problem of racism which continues to be directed towards black people and native people throughout North and South America. "The Church must ensure the minority groups are, in fact, able to move into positions of decision-making," the bishops' statement said.

###



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024

EPISCOPAL ADVOCACY TRAINING

TO PRECEDE IMPACT BRIEFING

DPS 86031

WASHINGTON (DPS, Feb. 20) -- A "Training for Advocacy" workshop is planned to help Episcopalians make the most of this year's March 16-19 IMPACT Congressional Briefing here.

Sponsored by the Episcopal Church's Public Policy Network and its Partner Networks -- including such groups as the the Presiding Bishop's Fund for Relief, Urban Caucus, Appalachian People's Service Organization, Episcopal Society for Ministry on Aging, National Episcopal Coalition on Alcohol, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, etc. -- the training program will run from the afternoon of March 15 through the afternoon of the next day, with the briefing itself beginning that evening. Geared to preparing participants for the advocacy work in which they will be engaging during the briefing, the workshop is also open to interested persons who are not registered for the IMPACT event, and will be videotaped by the Diocese of Washington.

There are expected to be more than 60 Episcopalians among the 600 or so participants in the congressional briefing this year, an annual event organized by national IMPACT. Headed by an Episcopalian, the Rev. Craig Biddle, III, IMPACT describes itself as a "grassroots religious coalition...committed to bringing religious faith and conscience to bear on the important domestic and foreign policy issues of our day." As part of that commitment, the briefing provides the religious leaders who attend with background information on key legislation pending before the current year's Congress.

"Training for Advocacy" will give those Episcopalians who attend information on the theological basis for advocacy, presented by the Rev. Kwasi Thornell as well as information on lobbying and effective advocacy and advocacy on the state level will be made by the Hon. Byron S. Rushing, Representative from Massachusetts and chairman of the Episcopal Urban Caucus. There will also be workshops by members of

-more-

DPS 86031/2

the Partner Networks on their respective areas, including legislation, General Convention resolutions and opportunities for advocacy action.

For more information, contact Public Policy Network coordinator, G. Nancy Deppen, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017, phone (212) 867-8400, ext. 486; or Washington staff officer, the Rev. Dr. William L. Weiler, 110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, DC 20002, phone (202) 547-7300.

###

CREAN NAMED TO

P.B. FUND POST

DPS86032

NEW YORK (DPS, Feb. 20) -- The Presiding Bishop. Edmond L. Browning has appointed Dr. David E. Crean to the position of assistant for interpretation and network development in the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief. Crean succeeds the Rev. Dr. Samuel D'Amico, who retired. The position has been redefined to provide for the effective coverage of the Hunger Office.

Crean, a native of Capetown, South Africa, holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Cambridge, England. He received his doctoral degree in food science and nutrition from the Ohio State University, where he served on the faculty for eleven years. Crean joined the Church Center Staff in 1980 as staff officer for hunger in the National Mission Unit, succeeding the Rev. Charles Cesaretti. During his tenure in this position, Crean developed the newsletter Episcopal Hunger Networker and world hunger booklet "How Many Loaves Have You?" He also edited the book Living Simply.

Crean has worked collaboratively with the Fund's staff on many hunger-related projects during the time he spent in the Hunger Office. He worked closely with Board's Grants Committee, especially in the field of domestic hunger and poverty, and represented the Fund's Executive Director on several ecumenical committees. He also served on the Fund's Africa Famine response team.

The Hunger Program follows Crean to the Fund. He will continue to have general oversight of this until a suitable staff person can be recruited to the position of public information officer on the Fund's staff. Crean will continue to publish the newsletter, Episcopal Hunger Networker, and to work with the National Hunger Committee.

Crean sees the greatest challenge to be the "problems of success" due to the Fund's explosive growth in the past two years in church contributions from under \$3 million to over \$6.75 million. His responsibilities include the training of the Fund's two networks, the Hunger Network, and the production of interpretational materials for the Fund.

DPS 86032/2

He is an active lay person in the Church and is a member of the Chapel of St. John the Divine in Saundertown, R.I. When in New York, he attends the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, a coincidence he greatly enjoys. Crean's two daughters currently live in London, England. The Rev. Canon Samir J. Habiby, Executive Director, stated that "David is a brilliant communicator as well as being a seasoned educator. He brings to the Fund many needed skills."

###

DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE/ Episcopal Church Center 212/867-8400

"WITNESS" IS THIS YEAR'S

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING THEME

DPS 86033

NEW YORK (DPS, Feb. 20) -- "Witness" is this year's theme for the Good Friday Offering, which focuses on the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

The work of the Church in that part of the world is portrayed in a 16-minutes slide and cassette presentation entitled "You Shall Be My Witness." The presentation is also available in video cassette.

This year there is also available a bulletin insert with photographs which describes the work of each one of the four dioceses of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East: Iran, Cyprus and the Gulf, Egypt and Jerusalem

Since 1922, the Good Friday Offering has been assisting the Churches in the Middle East with funds for their missionary, educational and medical work. Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning has urged all Episcopalians to give generously so that the work of the Church in that part of the world can be continued and strengthened.

"The witness and courage of this small Church are an inspiration to all of us. As we give our offering on Good Friday, let us not forget the great needs of this sister province of the Anglican Communion..." he said in a letter to the Church.

The Rt. Rev. Samir Kafity, newly elected President-Bishop of the Province, said in a recent interview: "We love the Lord and communicate the love of the Lord to others through hospitals, schools, orphanages, rehabilitation institutions and projects and programs of service to all, without any distinction of race and creed."

The World Mission and Communication units at the Episcopal Church Center have prepared materials, which include a poster, a bulletin cover, a bulletin insert explaining the work of the province, and offering envelopes, to help promote the offering in parishes across the United States. Sample copies, along with order forms, are being mailed to all Episcopal parishes.

###

